

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph under the heading COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2 at page 27 of the specification to read as follows:

**COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2**

In the same manner as in Example 1, a separator plate having the following dimensions was produced. The separator plate had an external size of 20 cm x 20 cm and a thickness of 3.0 mm, and the gas flow channel and the cooling water flow channel had a width of 0.5 mm, a depth of 1.0 mm, and a rib width of 1.0 mm. The MEA-1 sheet was sandwiched by the above-mentioned two separator plates, and the resultant was clamped such that the portion of the carbon fiber non-woven fabric contacting the rib of the separator plate had a thickness of 0.11 mm. Then, since the width of the gas flow channel was narrow, the carbon fiber non-woven fabric was compressed as a whole, protruding only a little into the gas flow channel by not more than 0.05 mm, as illustrated in FIG. 7. In FIG. 7, 61 represents a polymer electrolyte membrane sandwiched by an anode 62A and a cathode 62B, which protrude a little into the gas flow channels 64A and 64B of separator plates 63A and 63B, respectively.

Please amend the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE at page 46 of the specification to read as follows:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A fuel cell having high operation performance and reliability is provided by optimizing the shape and properties of a gas diffusion layer and the dimensions of a gas flow channel. The fuel cell ~~is capable of evenly supplying~~ supplies a reaction gas to the catalyst of a catalyst layer and promptly ~~discharging~~ discharges excessive water generated therein. The gas diffusion layer of the MEA ~~of this fuel cell~~ comprises a first section having a surface A ~~that comes~~ coming in direct contact with a separator plate and a second section having a surface B ~~that faces~~ facing the gas flow channel of the separator plate. The porosity of the first section is lower than the porosity of the second section, and the second section protrudes into the gas flow channel. ~~[[.]]The gas flow channel~~ which has sufficient width and depth for the protrusion of the gas diffusion layer, and the width of a rib formed by the gas flow channel is sufficiently narrow.